

## Special Edition

### SUPPORTING AMERICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Maryland's  
Strategy to  
Stimulate the  
Economy and  
Protect Jobs  
Through  
Transportation  
Investment

Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor



# The MBE Monitor

Integrity. Accountability. Opportunity.

A publication of the Maryland Department of Transportation's Office of Minority Business Enterprise -  
the official certification agency for the State of Maryland.

## A Message From the Governor

These are challenging times in Maryland and across our nation. The current economic downturn is impacting both families and businesses throughout our State, putting jobs at risk and causing great hardship for many of our families. Yet, despite these difficult economic times, there is still reason for optimism. We remain a strong State and we have tremendous new partners in the Obama Administration who share our commitment to progress. Providing great promise in this time of instability, President Obama has proposed an Economic Recovery package that will help our families pull through these tough times more quickly, as well as work to secure a better future for generations to come.

Here in Maryland, this legislation will allow us to make crucial improvements to our roads, bridges, tunnels and public transit system, while sustaining as many as 20,000 infrastructure-related jobs throughout our State. On February 5, Vice President Joe Biden visited our MARC station in Laurel, Maryland, in support of the projects we would be able to jumpstart with this crucial funding, and it is great to have his partnership in our nation's capital as well.

We have directed the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to maximize the benefit of the anticipated economic recovery funding. We must move quickly so that we can continue to strengthen our infrastructure and create jobs. Therefore, transportation funding in the economic recovery package is likely to focus on "shovel ready" system preservation projects. These are projects that do not require significant pre-construction work.

A special section of MDOT's website is dedicated to providing citizens with the ability to stay up-to-date on the transportation investments Maryland will make by utilizing federal economic recovery funds. The Maryland projects that will ultimately receive federal recovery dollars will not be fully known until the size, scope and limitations on the use of federal economic recovery funds are finalized. In the meantime, we would like to outline the key principles that will guide our use of these federal dollars:

**Fix It First:** Maryland's highest priority will be on system preservation – the repair and rebuilding of our roads, bridges, transit and other transportation infrastructure that is already in place.

**One Maryland:** Transportation projects funded with these federal dollars will be located in every region of the State to address transportation needs utilizing the local workforce wherever possible.

**Maximize Benefit:** MDOT will aggressively pursue any and all funding, including discretionary funding, to invest in Maryland's transportation infrastructure.

**Transparency and Accountability:** The process for the selection of projects and the benefits of their construction will be made readily available to the public so that citizens can see what has been done and why.

Visit [www.marylandtransportation.com](http://www.marylandtransportation.com)

*Click on the American Recovery  
and Reinvestment Act icon*



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## Governor's Message



This website is our first step in delivering on these principles. The content of this site will evolve and be updated on a regular basis as the Obama Administration and Congress complete their work and the process of economic recovery begins.

I look forward to working with local elected officials, municipal planning organizations and citizens throughout our State as part of our effort to build that better future we all prefer.

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

## Outreach Efforts

### SHA hosts statewide events for prime and sub-contractors

**A**ttention prime and sub-contractors! Find out how the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) State Highway Administration (SHA) is planning to deploy funds made available from the Economic Recovery Act. Join SHA engineers at district offices across the state to hear what is being planned in each region. Subject matter specialists will discuss the procurement and bidding process for Economic Recovery Act projects. A representative from MDOT's Office of Minority Business Enterprise will be on hand to discuss expansion of services for DBE certified firms as well as the Modified Reciprocity Certification Program (MRCP) between Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.



Outreach events have already been held in Greenbelt, Frederick and Annapolis. The schedule for the remaining districts is as follows:

<b>February 23, 2009</b> 8 - 10 a.m. District 1 Office 660 West Road Salisbury, MD 21801 Contact: Linda Bloodsworth 410-677-4089	<b>February 24, 2009</b> 8 - 10 a.m. District 6 Office 1251 Vocke Road La Vale, MD 21502 Contact: Matt Troutman 301-697-9242	<b>February 26, 2009</b> 9 - 11 a.m. Hanover Complex 7491 Connelley Drive Hanover, MD 21076 Contact: Michelle Kelly 443-572-5019
<b>February 23, 2009</b> 8 - 10 a.m. District 2 Conf. Room 619 Morgne Road Chestertown, MD 21620 Contact: Brandee Jones 410-810-3272	<b>February 26, 2009</b> 8 - 10 a.m. District 4 Assembly Room 2323 Joppa Road Lutherville, MD 21093 Contact: Pam Perez 410-321-2448	<b>February 27, 2009</b> 1 - 3 p.m. Prince Frederick Shop 100 Hallowing Point Road Prince Frederick, MD 20678 Contact: Nancy Palardy 410-841-1048

## SHA Posts Invitation For Bids as PDFs on the World Wide Web

Information about contracting opportunities resulting from the Economic Recovery Act is easy to access for DBE firms interested in learning more about these projects. Maryland's State Highway Administration (SHA) has modified its website and posted a PDF version of all Invitation for Bids (IFB) online. This modification allows you to view and/or download IFBs as they are posted on the website.

Visit <http://www.marylandroads.com/businesswithsha/contBidProp.asp?id=B157+B160> and click on Economic Recovery - Invitation for Bids, then select "view" to access the PDF document.

If you don't have easy access to a high speed Internet connection, visit an SHA District Office. Each office now has a computer with Internet access available for walk in use. Visit <http://marylandroads.com> (select *Locations*, then *About Our Organization*) to find the location most convenient for you.

# Economic Recovery Act

## Frequently Asked Questions

***Q: How is the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) getting the word out about Economic Recovery Act projects?***

A: MDOT will be focused on transparency and accountability as we move forward in awarding these projects. The latest information on stimulus projects will be available on several State websites:

- ♦ [http://www.marylandtransportation.com/Planning/Economic\\_Recovery/Index](http://www.marylandtransportation.com/Planning/Economic_Recovery/Index)
- ♦ <https://ebidmarketplace.com/>

***Q: What steps are being taken to expedite the procurement process for transportation projects?***

A: The time frame from advertisement of bids to bid opening will be reduced from the normal four to five weeks to the minimum time permitted of three weeks. In addition, two bid openings per week will be scheduled for the foreseeable future. Once bids are opened, low bidders are strongly encouraged to submit all documents they are required to submit (e.g. Affirmative Action Plans) in less time than they are legally entitled to. MDOT is committed to turning around contract documents in as expedited a manner as possible.

***Q: What opportunities will be available to minority businesses?***

A: Maryland is committed to working with certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms in order to meet minority participation goals. Only DBE certified firms can meet minority participation goals established for Economic Recovery Act projects. MDOT will be making extra efforts to link DBEs and prime contractors so that everyone benefits from the Economic Recovery Act projects. As we move through the procurement process, MDOT is encouraging everyone to work hard to meet all the federal requirements and deadlines so that Maryland is able to take advantage of all the federal funding available. DBE participation goals will be determined in accordance with applicable federal laws and regulations.

***Q: How can DBE certified firms prepare for these new opportunities?***

A: MDOT's Office of Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) is encouraging certified firms to review their online Directory listing (<http://mbe.mdot.state.md.us/directory/>) and NAICS code assignments. Firms that have added new services may request an Expansion of Services by submitting a written request listing the additional areas in which they would like to be certified. Contact OMBE (410-865-1269 / [mbe@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:mbe@mdot.state.md.us)) for more details.

***Q: Can I take advantage of opportunities outside of Maryland?***

A: DBE firms already certified by MDOT can apply for certification in two neighboring jurisdiction. Governor Martin O'Malley, together with Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine and District of Columbia Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, launched the Modified Reciprocity Certification Program

(MRCP) this past fall to streamline the application process and reduce the paperwork. Today, firms with certification in one jurisdiction only have to submit the following documents to apply for certification in the other jurisdictions:

- ♦ Uniform Certification Application
- ♦ Personal Net Worth (PNW) statement

- ♦ Owner's federal tax return for latest tax year
- ♦ Firm's federal tax return for the latest tax year
- ♦ Most recent letter of certification received from the DBE's/ACDBE's home state
- ♦ Certificate of Good Standing from Maryland State Department of Assessment and Taxation (where applicable)

Firms in Virginia and the District of Columbia that have already received DBE certification from their home state may apply for certification in Maryland through the MRCP. For more information, contact OMBE (410-865-1269 / [mbe@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:mbe@mdot.state.md.us)).

**View more FAQs at  
[www.marylandtransportation.com](http://www.marylandtransportation.com)  
(click on the Economic Recovery Act icon).**





**Martin O'Malley**  
Governor

**Anthony G. Brown**  
Lt. Governor



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[marylandtransportation.com](http://marylandtransportation.com)

Email:  
[mbe@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:mbe@mdot.state.md.us)

## **MBE/DBE Application Assistance Workshop**

**S**mall and minority business owners interested in increasing their exposure to work on State, local and federal government contracting projects are encouraged to attend a free workshop focused on Maryland's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification program.

**Demystify the Application Process** - Participants will receive a comprehensive overview of the application process and learn valuable information about the State's procurement resources and current contract opportunities. One of the most valuable aspects of the workshop is the opportunity to meet with a certification expert one-on-one.

**Who should attend?** - Firms interested in learning about the benefits of MBE/DBE certification will benefit greatly from this program. Firms that have already begun the application process that have specific questions or those seeking assistance in completing the application will also find it valuable.

**Economic Recovery Act Projects** - Firms that are already DBE certified are invited to attend the March workshop to learn more about the hundreds of "shovel ready" projects expected to receive federal funding. Learn how to apply for an Expansion of Services and obtain certification in neighboring jurisdictions through a streamlined application process for DBEs.

The MBE/DBE Application Assistance Workshop is hosted by the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) - *the official certification agency for the State.*

**For more information, visit the  
Minority/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise  
section of MDOT's website at  
[www.marylandtransportation.com](http://www.marylandtransportation.com).**

### **March Resource**

**Topic:**  
MDOT  
Procurement  
Opportunities  
relating to the  
Economic  
Recovery Act

**Date:**  
Tuesday,  
March 3, 2009

**Time:**  
10 am

**Location:**  
MDOT  
Headquarters  
7201 Corporate  
Center Dr.,  
Hanover, MD  
21076

**Cost:**  
Free

**For more  
information,  
call  
410-865-1269**

Upcoming  
Workshops:  
April 7, 2009  
May 5, 2009  
June 2, 2009